

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2008**

Members Present: Lardizzone, Thompson, Carroll, Ennis, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Timberman, Wasson

Members Excused: Corsa, Evans and Smith

Staff Present: Davila, Reid and Moyer

Guests: Rich Taylor (book author), Al Carter and Chris Portante (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Ron Sarg (MOAA), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL) and Robert Ranier

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

Mr. Taylor introduced himself and explained his proposed book idea and plans for the proceeds.

Commissioner Carroll stated that the presentation at the last Commission meeting by Mr. Brooks and Ms. Wilcox (City of Newark Parade Committee) was to raise funds for the memorial renovation in Newark. In the minutes, it should have read the Newark War Memorial and not the KWV Memorial.

Mr. Reid reported on current waivers and provided the Veterans Home monthly update. He requested assistance with purchasing calling cards and was told by Commissioner Kitson that the VFW would take care of up to 100 cards every six weeks. There was discussion about the current donation list, as well as the possibilities of getting vehicles to transport residents at the Veterans Home.

**MOTION BY LANK TO ACCEPT SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt reported on the Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting on October 16, 2008, the turnout was not very good. Mr. Davila reported on the construction progress for both cemeteries. Commissioner Newstadt announced that he is turning over the position of chairman of the Cemetery Committee to Commissioner Wasson and he thanked everyone for the opportunity to have served and reported that the next FACC meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2009.

PERSONNEL

Chairman Lardizzone reported that there are nine applicants for the Conservation Technician II position at the Northern Cemetery and interviews will be conducted on November 5, 2008.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Newstadt (JWV) – Reported that they made a \$100 donation to the Veterans Day fund and have sent a \$100 donation to the Delaware Veterans Museum that is being constructed at Governor Bacon. They are donating a large aviary at the Wilmington VA Medical Center. On May 17, 2009, they will be having their installation of officers in Delaware at Harry's on Naamans Rd.

Wasson (DELVETS) – He shared that he just returned from a trip to South Korea and China.

Harden (WAVES) – She attended the most recent WAVES meeting and discussed topics of the meeting.

Kitson (VFW) – The Military Order of the Cooties will hold a cook-out at the Veterans Home on Saturday, November 1, 2008, and the Trek will be held November 7-9, 2008, at Arlington Cemetery. The Eastern States Conference is scheduled for November 21-23, 2008.

Thompson (MCL) – Reported that all five MCL detachments and the Marine Corps Reserve Center in Wilmington have started their “Toys for Tots” campaign and it will continue until close to Christmas.

Lardizzone (DAV) – They also donated \$100 to the Veterans Day fund. On November 17, 2008, the DAV and Golden Corral will serve free dinners to veterans, active duty, Reservists and National Guard members from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Guests will have to pay full price. The DAV will be sponsoring a bus trip to the WWII Memorial & Korean War Memorial on May 9, 2009 (rain date May 16) and it will be \$25 per person; which includes round trip transportation and food.

Carroll (MOPH) – Reported that their department made a \$500 donation to the City of Newark War Memorial fund and a \$100 donation to the Commission of Veterans Affairs Veterans Day fund. The Regional Commanders meeting was held at Renaissance Hotel in Philadelphia and he discussed topics of the meeting.

Ennis (KWVA) – Reported that the KWVA is conducting the Wounded Warrior fundraiser, in which they have already donated \$10,000 and have raised nearly another \$10,000 toward that effort. They will participate in Return Day and will have a Thanksgiving Celebration on November 9, 2008, that will be held at the Baptist Church in Dover. On November 11, 2008, the KWVA will be hosting the Bridge ceremony and the 1st National Vice President will be the speaker. On November 11, 2008, Chapter 1 will have a Veterans Day Dinner Dance at the Cheer Center in Georgetown. The Department quarterly meeting will be held on December 4, 2008. A Department holiday party is scheduled for December 7, 2008. On December 12, 2008, there will be a Chapter 1 holiday party at the Elks.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Newstadt addressed the issue of burials for veterans that do not have families and discussion followed.

Mr. Carter addressed the recent admission waiver for the Veterans Home that was approved by the Commission and discussion followed.

Chairman Lardizzone reported that the Delaware Veterans Home fund has a balance of \$107,353.33 and the Friends of Veterans Home fund has a balance of \$472, 211.15.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Newstadt gave Kudos to the KWVA for their participation in the funeral service of the late Mayor Mitchell, former Mayor of Elsmere.

Chairman Lardizzone reminded the Commission that the Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 10:30 am on November 11, 2008, at the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

Commissioner Carroll reported that the next Veterans Home Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the Veterans Home on November 12, 2008, 2:00 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 25, 2008 (10:00 AM)

LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE

ADJOURNED